

In the Claims:

Please substitute claims 1-4, 6-20, and 53-76 presented below for claims 1-4, 6-20, and 53-76 previously presented. Please cancel claim 5 (claims 21-52 were previously canceled).

The status of each claim is indicated. Currently amended claims are shown with additions

underlined and deletions in ~~striketrough text~~.

1. (Currently amended) A catheter assembly comprising,

an elongated body having a first end portion and a second end portion,

a dilatable bladder incorporated with said elongated body between the first end portion of
the elongated body and the second end portion of the elongated body, and the dilatable bladder
being adapted to dilate in a radially outward direction from said elongated body, and

a thermally responsive indicator incorporated with at least a portion of said dilatable
bladder, said thermally responsive indicator being adapted to visually change in response to a
change in temperature.

2. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongated body
defines an internal lumen extending from a first end of said elongated body to a second end of
said elongated body, said dilatable bladder is in fluid communication with said internal lumen,
and inflates in response to a positive fluid pressure in said internal lumen.

3. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein said catheter is adapted for insertion into a body of a mammal and said thermally responsive indicator detects a change in temperature when said thermally responsive indicator is located in proximity of a blood vessel.

4. (Previously presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein said catheter is adapted for insertion into a human body and said thermally responsive indicator indicates a change in temperature when a portion of said dilatable bladder is disposed in a ureter and brought into proximity of a femoral artery or vein.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said dilatable bladder has an inner surface and said thermally responsive indicator is disposed on at least a portion of said inner surface.

7. (Original) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said dilatable bladder has an outer surface and said thermally responsive indicator is disposed on at least a portion of said outer surface.

8. (Original) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said thermally responsive indicator includes a thermochromatic material.

9. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 8, wherein said dilatable bladder is formed from a first material and said thermochromatic material is disposed within said first material.

10. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, further comprising a detector element adapted for detecting the visual change of said thermally responsive indicator.

11. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 10, wherein said elongated body defines a detector lumen extending between thea first end portion of said elongated body and thea second end portion of said elongated body, and being adapted for receiving said detector element.

12. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 10, wherein said detector element is a fiber optic camera adapted to enable an operator to view the visual change of said thermally responsive indicator.

13. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, further comprising, a surgical cutter adapted to enable an operator to cut mammal flesh at a location other than the location of said thermally responsive indicator.

14. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said dilatable bladder extends around a first portion of a periphery of said elongated body and said catheter assembly further comprises a surgical cutter adapted to enable an operator to incise mammal flesh contacting a second portion of the periphery of said elongated body, said first portion of the periphery of said elongated body and said second portion of the periphery of said elongated body being non-overlapping.

15. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 1 further comprising,
a cutting lumen extending from thea first end portion of said elongated body to thea second end portion of said elongated body, wherein an outer wall of said elongated body includes a cutting aperture in communication with said cutting lumen, and

a surgical cutting wire anchored in said cutting lumen at a location between said cutting aperture and said second end portion of said elongated body, and extending axially from said location past said cutting aperture toward said first end portion of said elongated body, wherein said cutting lumen at said first end portion of said elongated body is adapted to enable an operator to extend said surgical cutting wire to cause a looped portion of said surgical cutting wire to protrude radially through said cutting aperture.

16. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 1 further comprising,

a cutting lumen extending from thea first end portion of said elongated body to thea second end portion of said elongated body, wherein an outer wall includes a cutting aperture in communication with said cutting lumen, and

a surgical cutting element adapted to extend axially from said first end portion through said cutting lumen toward said cutting aperture, wherein said cutting lumen at said first end portion of said elongated body is adapted to enable an operator to extend and retract said surgical cutting element radially through said cutting aperture.

17. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1 further comprising, a surgical cutting wire extending external to said elongated body from a first location proximal to a first end of said elongated body to a second location proximal to a second end of said elongated body, said surgical cutting wire disposed in a fixed relationship to said second location and in a moveable relationship with said first location, said first location being adapted to enable an operator to extend and retract said surgical cutting element to adjust an amount of radial protrusion of said cutting element from said elongated body.

18. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said dilatable bladder has an outer surface and said catheter assembly further comprises, a surgical cutting wire extending adjacent to said outer surface of said dilatable bladder from a first location proximal to ~~thea~~ first end portion of said elongated body to a second location proximal to ~~thea~~ second end portion of said elongated body, said surgical cutting wire disposed in a fixed relationship to said second location and in a moveable relationship to said first location.

19. (Original) The catheter assembly of claim 18, wherein said surgical cutting wire is adapted to extend in response to inflation of said dilatable bladder and retract in response to deflation of said dilatable bladder.

20. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said thermally responsive indicator is adapted to change color in response to a change in temperature.

21.-52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said thermally responsive indicator is adapted to visually change in response to a change in temperature from a source external of said bladder.

54. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein said thermally responsive indicator is adapted to visually change in response to a change in temperature from a first temperature present in a ureter adjacent at least one of a femoral artery and vein of a patient to a second temperature present in the ureter spaced from the femoral artery and vein of the patient.

55. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the elongated body includes a first portion and a second portion different than the first portion of the elongated body, and the bladder is entirely incorporated with the first portion of the elongated body.

56. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 1, further comprising,
a surgical cutter adapted to cut mammal flesh,

the elongated body includes a first portion and a second portion different than the first portion of the elongated body, the bladder is entirely incorporated with the first portion of the elongated body, the cutter is disposed on the second portion of the elongated body.

57. (Currently amended) A catheter assembly, comprising,
- an elongated body having a first end portion and a second end portion,
- a dilatable bladder coupled to said elongated body between the first end portion of the elongated body and the second end portion of the elongated body, the dilatable bladder beingand adapted to dilate in a radially outward direction from said elongated body, and
- a thermally responsive indicator, at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator being disposed on at least a portion of said dilatable bladder, said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator being adapted to visually change in response to a change in temperature.
58. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said elongated body defines an internal lumen extending from thea first end portion of said elongated body to thea second end portion of said elongated body, said dilatable bladder is in fluid communication with said internal lumen, and inflates in response to a positive fluid pressure in said internal lumen.
59. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said catheter is adapted for insertion into a body of a mammal and said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator indicates a change in temperature when said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator is brought into proximity of a blood vessel.

60. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said catheter is adapted for insertion into a human body and said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator indicates a change in temperature when a portion of said dilatable bladder is disposed in a ureter and is brought into proximity of a femoral artery or vein.

61. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein a portion of said elongated body is adapted to form said dilatable bladder.

62. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said dilatable bladder has an inner surface and said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator is disposed on at least a portion of said inner surface.

63. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said dilatable bladder has an outer surface and said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator is disposed on at least a portion of said outer surface.

64. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said thermally responsive indicator includes a thermochromatic material.

65. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said dilatable bladder is formed from a first material and said thermochromatic material is disposed within said first material.

66. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, further comprising, a detector element adapted for detecting the visual change of said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator.

67. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 66, further comprising, a detector lumen extending between the first end portion of said elongated body and the second end portion of said elongated body, and being adapted for receiving said detector element.

68. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 66, wherein said detector element is a fiber optic camera adapted to enable an operator to view the visual change of said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator.

69. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, further comprising,
a surgical cutter adapted to enable an operator to cut mammal flesh at a location other than a location of said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator when said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator indicates a change in temperature.

70. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said dilatable bladder extends around a first portion of a periphery of said elongated body and said catheter assembly further comprises a surgical cutter adapted to enable an operator to incise mammal flesh contacting a second portion of the periphery of said elongated body, said first portion of the periphery of said elongated body and said second portion of the periphery of said elongated body being non-overlapping.

71. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 57, further comprising,

a cutting lumen extending from thea first end portion of said elongated body to thea second end portion of said elongated body, wherein an outer wall of said elongated body includes a cutting aperture in communication with said cutting lumen, and

a surgical cutting wire anchored in said cutting lumen at a location between said cutting aperture and said second end portion of said elongated body, and extending axially from said location past said cutting aperture toward said first end portion of said elongated body, wherein said cutting lumen at said first end of said elongated body is adapted to enable an operator to extend said surgical cutting wire to cause a looped portion of said surgical cutting wire to protrude radially through said cutting aperture.

72. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 57, further comprising,

a cutting lumen extending from thea first end portion of said elongated body to thea second end portion of said elongated body, wherein an outer wall includes a cutting aperture in communication with said cutting lumen, and

a surgical cutting element adapted to extend axially from said first end portion through said cutting lumen toward said cutting aperture, wherein said cutting lumen at said first end portion of said elongated body is adapted to enable an operator to extend and retract said surgical cutting element radially through said cutting aperture.

73. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 57, further comprising,

a surgical cutting wire extending external to said elongated body from a first location proximal to ~~thea~~ first end portion of said elongated body to a second location proximal to ~~thea~~ second end portion of said elongated body, said surgical cutting wire disposed in a fixed relationship to said second location and in a moveable relationship with said first location, said first location being adapted to enable an operator to extend and retract said surgical cutting element to adjust an amount of radial protrusion of said cutting element from said elongated body.

74. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said dilatable bladder has an outer surface and said catheter assembly further comprises, a surgical cutting wire extending adjacent to said outer surface of said dilatable bladder from a first location proximal to ~~thea~~ first end portion of said elongated body to a second location proximal to ~~thea~~ second end portion of said elongated body, said surgical cutting wire disposed in a fixed relationship to said second location and in a moveable relationship to said first location.

75. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 74, wherein said surgical cutting wire is adapted to extend in response to inflation of said dilatable bladder and retract in response to deflation of said dilatable bladder.

76. (Previously presented) The catheter assembly of claim 57, wherein said at least a portion of said thermally responsive indicator is adapted to change color in response to a change in temperature.